



THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NGC 71
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(Seen by Harlan and Kehler)

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SECRET

American Embassy,
Paris, France,
February 11, 1959.

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Dear Lane:

In view of the interest you have expressed with regard to contingency planning here as it relates to the Berlin situation, I am enclosing an excerpt from General Benquer's regular Staff Meeting on February 5, containing General Gadin's presentation on studies in this field:

1. SACEUR's Action in Periods of Tension. General Benquer stated that we are preparing a study to determine what SACEUR should do or what he could recommend and do under certain conditions of increased tension in Western Europe. First, we are looking into what steps SACEUR should take to implement the measures of the Central-Surprise Military Alert System if tension increases. We wish to determine also what effect various political decisions would have in the military field.

"The Chief of Staff stated that it would be difficult for SHAPE to recommend to national authorities the course of action they should take if the Soviets turn over control of checkpoints to the East Germans. But we must point out in advance SACEUR's tasks and be ready to meet the situation brought about by any of the decisions which they do take. NATO military authorities must support the decision at the

last

B. E. L. Timmons, Esquire,
Director, Office of European Regional Affairs,
Department of State,
Washington.

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Last Ministerial Conference that NATO will remain firm with respect to Berlin. The Europeans must be convinced that this decision is not an empty statement. The study now being made must be ready for use by General Vorstad in his discussions with NATO authorities or authorities of individual nations."

Sincerely,


Ray
Acting Assistant
Secretary of Defense

cc: J. Allen

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